Statement

Shortage of Personnel in Armed Forces

There is a shortage of personnel in defence services. The deficiency in the Officers cadre and Personnel Below Officers Rank (PBOR) in the Army, Air Force and Navy is given below:

	Army	Air Force	Navy
Officers	11691	375	1333
Personnel Below Officers Rank (PBOR)	No shortage	4943	4243

For Personnel Below Officers Rank (PBOR) who meet the requisite educational and other criteria for grant of commission to officer cadre, various schemes are available in the Army, Air Force and Navy as given below:

Service	Scheme
Army	(i) Army Cadet College
	(ii) Special Commissioned Officer and
	(iii) Permanent Commission (Special List)
Navy	(i) Commission Worthy and
	(ii) Special Duties Commission
Air Force	(i) Airmen Entry Commission
	(ii) Senior Non-Commissioned Officers Commission and
	(iii) Branch Commission.

US Warships for Surveillance purposes

3083. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA has agreed to give warships to our Navy for surveillance purposes on lease;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these ships cannot be built indigenously;

(d) if so, the reasons for not building the same; and

(e) if not, the action taken to build the ships?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, the USA has agreed in principle to sell a Landing Platform Dock (LPD) to India. The ship could provide the Indian Navy enhanced amphibious capability. In addition, the LPD can be deployed for disaster relief operations. It can also function as a command and control platform during mishaps at sea like offshore oil installation fires and maritime air accidents. No LPD of this capability has so far been constructed in India.

Loss to Defence Personnel and their families in Tsunami

3084. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government initiated to conduct any assessment on the loss sustained to the defence personnel and their families due to the onslaught of Tsunami;

(b) how many military personnel belonging to Kerala sustained loss due to the above calamity, the district-wise details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend any financial assistance to the affected service personnel and their families and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A total of 7 Air Force personnel lost their lives and 4 were missing during the Tsunami in Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) Islands. In addition, 1 personnel of the Military Engineering Service was also missing in the A&N Islands. 2 family members of an Army personnel also died in Kerala during the Tsunami.

(b) No military personnel belonging to Kerala suffered any loss of life during Tsunami.